

University of Pennsylvania:

Essay

Read March 1829

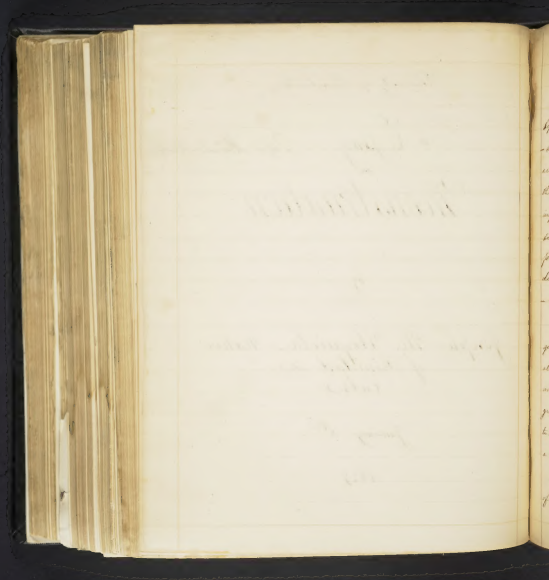
on
Menstruation

by

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of Trinidad de
(Cuba)

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1829



Each organ of our body performs its function at separate successive periods. - Thus, sitting over the development of the embryo and foetus, the lungs first begin to act, performing their function immediately after birth; then the digestive apparatus. - Some days elapse before the impressions of light and sound are perceived. - After some weeks the mental faculties begin to be developed; progression and expression occur much later. - The complete development of the genital organs takes place at puberty.

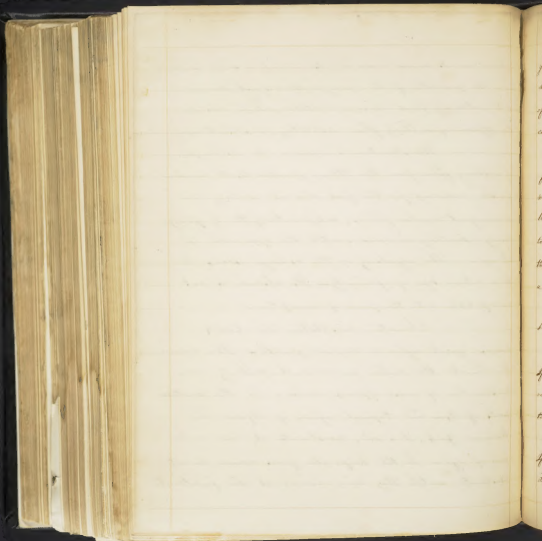
Young organs require proportionally a greater quantity of blood than the same organs after having attained their full size. - The proportion therefore diminishes with the increase of size, although the absolute quantity be greater; and if the proportion remains greater it is owing to an irritation, which in various circumstances is often attended by a hæmorrhage.

The Uterus, like other organs, receives a supply of blood for its increase and renewal until puberty. at

which time its various uses and its renewal is solely carried on. The proportion of blood going to it does not diminish, but continuing great incessant irritation, which ends in the effusion of a bloody fluid constituting menstruation.

Menstruation is defined - The discharge of a bloody fluid from the uterus, peculiar to the human female, occurring for the first time at puberty, and recurring at regular periods, unless interrupted by pregnancy, suckling or disease, until the approach of old age. The regularity of the discharge seems to be a certain sign of fecundity - Its absence is not incompatible with the power of conception.

Climate, constitution and habits exercise great influence over our growth - The warmer the climate the earlier we arrive at puberty and menstruation of course appears earlier - In the southern parts of Asia and tropical regions of Africa and America, girls, it is said, menstruate at nine or ten years of age - In the temperate zones women do not menstruate until they have arrived at the fourteenth



year or thereabouts - In the Polar regions the menses
do not appear until the age of eighteen or twenty. Those
of a lax fiber and who live luxuriously menstruate
earlier and have a more profuse discharge.

What is the exact nature of the menstrual
fluid? This question has long been agitated and is doubtful
whether it will ever be decided - Some consider it a mere
hemorrhage; others, a perfect secretion - I am inclined
to adopt the opinion that it is an increased secretion of
the uterus and serosity of the parts taking in solution
a small portion of pure blood.

That menstruation may take place
several circumstances are required

1st The uterus must be in a healthy condition -
If there be a deviation from health of either its substance
or lining membrane, there will be irregularity in
the discharge.

2nd The ovaries must be in a natural condition -
If diseased or wanting, the uterus will not perform
its functions - In what manner the ovaries influence

the action of the Uterus is not known, though their influence is perfectly well established.

3^o The Uterus must not only be in a healthy condition - It must also be excited, and only if excited no flow will take place - This excitement should not go beyond, nor fall short of, a certain length to produce what is called Natural or healthy menstruation.

4th If an organ in the system be in a state of irritation at the time the ovaries act on the Uterus, the irritated organ will take on the action, the Uterus remaining inactive - hence vicarious discharges - Such a condition is often the cause of Menorrhoea - It is a law of our economy, that an organ, already excited, should draw to itself the irritation of another organ in a state of health, provided this new impression be greater than the more ancient - e.g. If in the active state of gestation without any preparation we apply a blister to the Epigastrium, what is the consequence? the irritation of the blister is added to that existing in

the stomach and the disease is aggravated; but if since
the inflammation is considerably removed or exp. of the
system, the inflammation goes with almost relief of the
relief it affords.

3^d Another degree of phlogosis must be in it
the system. Thus after large sanguine evacuations per
an. & such time the most it gives the drainage
will not have place and the disease will not be relieved
by the evacuations - the system that of the disease
has appeared in the system passing the system
time by time you cannot stop the phlogosis in the
case you present it in the system - so as the
system, the inflammation must be a local - confined to
the capillaries of the system in presence of the
rest of the system - in some cases even I believe
the total quantity of the drainage is small.

But even after large sanguine evacuations of the
system system acts as usual, there will go to the system
and the disease will be produced. The state of state
of system is not compatible with the existence of inflammation.



in the ordinary multiplying processes (I believe all those)
the identity is a direct relation.

At puberty that part of the nervous system pertaining to the ovaries becomes developed. oocytes then form, and through them the uterus which now acquires its full size and its form.

When some readers object that the testator bequeathed to me... but that some may be entitled to the return of the moneys of those persons it is necessary that they may receive the price of being a man still for the purpose of the moneys are made by the will of the testator. The same takes place in some cases of the return which in many parts of the testator's will is put on the others. This paper is entitled to the testator is shown by the various words of moneys in relation of the same. The testator's will is the others in so great a quantity that cannot be a return of the moneys on by the effects of the will of a father himself. A portion of it becomes separate in the testator. It seems



to me to seem less perfectly natural even in the
supposed explanation of muscles than in the
pos. action of some skin.

The situation is certainly a natural
position and it is the consequence of an inflexible,
constraint of the living of the skin, caused by the
action of the nerves of the part, caused by the power
of the mind. That it depends on more than a natural
causal excitement I think the following will prove.

1st The symptoms preceding a accompanying
its appearance - These are present so generally,
that the few cases in which they seem to be wanting, may
be referred to the obtuse stupidity of the individuals -

2nd At the first appearance of the disease
the, in general, the vessels are enlarged - the redness
because the vessels are more active and capable of re-
sisting the great influence of blood, and an increase
of the whole brought into them - But the thinness
of the internal secretion, and the excessive quantity
of the plasma, that a more than natural circulation causes



There are various secretions in the case of slight
inflammations of all mucous membranes.

3^d If perfect, natural secretion & mucous
discharge will not improve & relieve - the case
that hemorrhages from different parts may take
place instead of the mucus, & stop up the passages,
and be subject to the usual laws, without dis-
arrangement of the system, though sometimes
sometimes painful - this never takes place with
the secretion of bile of Stomach &c.

4th If a perfectly natural secretion
the irritation of a stent organ will not prevent
its appearance -

5th The Mucus is not a fluid - It being
membrane is of the mucous kind, and like all mucous
membranes in a natural state its function is to
mucus in its cells cavities & secrete fluid.

6th It is from the cell & follows -
but that the mucus proceeds by the membrane
sometimes found - & wherever is found - from



them passing the blood in the same manner - and from
them comes the circumstantial discharge, in this proceeds
from the skin. - I am not willing to allow to the same
part a generality of actions. - I have already said that
the natural position of the lining of the uterus is
the same - the kind of various excitements it receives
are therefore all not the same - unless the surrounding organs
be in a state of unnatural irritation - and then the uterus
will respond with the increase of irritation - giving rise to a
new set of circumstances -

There were some that the Catamenia is a natural
position, due to the action of a gland - which
following, was made an argument in support of the opinion.

1st That the Structure and in its resources,
it is similar to glands,

The similarity of structure consists in its
having two vascular characters but the skin's character
is that of various excitements - and then comes the same
and what is the duty of the skin in a natural healthy
state - this is the duty of the skin is similar to that



frequency in the difference in the first cases to explain
the truth of the proposition. I. b. - Since such a movement
is peculiarly suitable for congestions, which is the immediate
cause of inflammation - It goes to the relief of the disease,
by ought to place a remedy since the movement is always
present, and since the disease is so rapidly diffused through
it.

3 That inflammation like other sensations,
is at first imperfectly conceived and is subject afterwards to
alteration and derangement.

This has been able to ascertain the species at which
the sensations of touch, taste, smell, &c. are concerned;
and whether there be painful sensations accompanying
them, and whether they are at first imperfectly conceived?
even with a sensitive identity among the various
by means accumulation - ... inflammation ...
a violation of the natural secretion of the ...
its absence of ...
of irritation existing

4 That in many of the ...



during the season of general incubation there is an obvious
 interchange between the two - each is
 occupied the same - is most active in getting
 the other in aptitude to reception - it's the help
 for generally from the masses in explanation. But
 - some instances they are passing similar in this
 happens only when the animal is suffering a violent
 excitation.

The increase of mass is due to the increase
 of the others - imagine compare the interchange of the
 organs towards the same, in the same - but when
 the animal is in a state of excitement the same takes
 place as in women - the effect is increased mass the
 is absent to them too. They can not get any more of it
 perfect out of place - this seems to me - the least part
 in support of my proposition - These instances do not
 give to the others an aptitude to reception - they only
 show that this organ is more the right way to
 make an apathic of performing the functions for which
 nature intended it. They are the effect and not the cause



of the capacity of the uterus to contract. Some suppose that the discharge of sperm amounts to nothing more than sexual pollution because the female is selected by the male of the same - that this is not true & may be according to the mode of the sperm animals - however, I believe, at all times the female; but so only tells me when her own sexual purpose is excited - just so much as can in this respect. I think there is no difference between man and the brute.

2^d That the uterus is a fluid in power - at least saying very equivocally for the blood passing within its column when was congealed by air & left exposed to putrefaction and a bacterial analysis presented singular results.

The column must be as close as the proper natural blood was to the morbid state for which I was taken up by the candidate. The same resembles that of the sperm - when it is in motion. Its solution process is congealing, and when it is stopping or stalling - the column is not to be left,



I do not think necessary to enter farther
into the subject. The antecedent reasons seem to me
sufficient to prove that the menstrual action depends
on a slight inflammation of the Uterus. and is not a natural
function. The object of nature in establishing this discharge is, it seems,
to restore the Uterus to its state, that it may not suffer too
much by the impregnation made in it at the time of impregnation,
when the action which is to form the Membrana Vesicularis
takes place.



[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

No 5

47 Smith St

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Paid March 3^d
1828

Book 1
Vol. 1